

2016 Norfolk Legislative Priorities

-Council Approved 12/8/15-

2016 Commonwealth Legislative Requests

The Norfolk City Council respectfully requests the 2016 General Assembly to consider approving the following priority legislative requests:

1. Reauthorize the Virginia General Assembly Joint Subcommittee to Formulate Recommendations to Address Recurrent Flooding.
2. Support the Commonwealth's participation in Virginia Coastal Resiliency Fund, a dedicated state funding source for assisting Virginia local governments address destructive recurrent flooding. The fund would be capitalized by proceeds from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a compact of Mid-Atlantic and New England states that works collaboratively to auction carbon credits to meet specific greenhouse gas emission targets.
3. Amend the Code of Virginia so motor vehicle travel lanes that have been converted to bicycle travel lanes shall continue to be included in the "moving-lane-miles" calculation used by the Department of Transportation for determining urban street maintenance payments.
4. Support legislation to provide Virginia local governments with the option of creating incentive programs aimed to reduce retailers' provision of single-use plastic shopping bags and encourage the use of reusable bags.
5. Support legislation that would authorize the Virginia Maritime Resources Commission to issue local governments an expedited permit for emergency sand placement under certain conditions.
6. Support legislation that changes the composition of the Commonwealth Transportation Board so that its non-legislative citizen members are selected by Virginia's congressional districts and not highway districts as is the current practice.

2016 Commonwealth Legislative Priorities

The Norfolk City Council respectfully advances to the 2016 General Assembly the following legislative priorities:

1. Restore K-12 state public education funding in all categories to FY 09 levels. Since 2009 the Commonwealth has reduced its share of funding for public education by approximately \$1 billion and state per pupil inflation adjusted funding for K-12 has decreased from \$4,275 per pupil in 2009 to \$3,655 per pupil in 2015. Virginia local governments have limited revenue-generating abilities to pay for quality public education and relies upon the Commonwealth to be an equitable funding partner.

2. Prioritize the Commonwealth's support for the following public education programs: At-Risk, Pre-K early learning, Workforce/Apprentice Development, Virginia Teacher Incentive Programs for hard to fill positions, and Teacher in Residency Programs.
3. Provide additional state support for public schools needing to extend their school days and modify their curriculums to meaningfully respond to their students' challenges and enhance course offerings.
4. Consider providing additional state grants or funding opportunities for high-poverty schools that desperately need enhanced access to broadband-technologies to improve the effectiveness of instruction.
5. Maintain the current Virginia moratorium banning uranium mining in the Commonwealth.
6. Support redistricting reforms that includes the use of a non-partisan independent commission to draw state legislative and congressional districts that preserves the integrity of existing local government political boundaries and precincts.
7. Fully expand Medicaid as provided by the Affordable Care Act to provide medical insurance coverage for a significant number of Virginia and Norfolk's uninsured citizens.
8. Oppose all legislative proposals to overhaul the Business, Professional and Occupational License (BPOL) tax that do not provide the replacement of the locality's lost tax and/or revenue-generating authority.
9. Eliminate the Commonwealth's seizure of local fines and forfeitures, which began in 2012 based upon a misinterpretation of the Code of Virginia. After separate examination, neither the State Inspector General nor the State Attorney General found any legal or policy justification for seizing local funds.
10. Amend the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission's (HRTAC's) enabling legislation to authorize local government voting-members to designate a fellow council member to serve as their voting proxy if the locality's chief elected official is unable to attend a scheduled HRTAC meeting for good reason.
11. Amend the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Act's (HRTAC's) enabling legislation to authorize the use of the Hampton Roads Transportation Fund to pay for HRTAC staff and authorized administrative expenses.
12. Repeal the 2014 and 2015 Appropriation Acts language that effectively bars local Treasurers from collecting delinquent fines and costs. Commonwealth Attorneys should be provided with the option to choose the most efficient and effective collection agent regardless of whether or not the agent is a public or private entity.
13. Reinsert in the procedural resolution that governs the conduct of the 2016 General Assembly Session requiring all legislative bills with local government fiscal impacts to have their impacts identified no later than the first day of their introduction to the General Assembly.

14. Preserve Virginia local governments' authority to regulate businesses whether they are traditional, electronic, internet-based, virtual, or otherwise.
15. Preserve existing authority for local governments that have implemented General Assembly authorized red light camera deterrence programs.
16. Oppose legislation that removes Virginia local government nutrient allocations currently assigned to existing municipal wastewater treatment plants.
17. Place reasonable limits on eligible deferred roadway maintenance for all future Public-Private Transportation Projects.

2016 Commonwealth Budget Amendment Requests

The Norfolk City Council respectfully requests the 2016 General Assembly consider approving the following budget requests:

1. \$3 million appropriation request to support the Virginia General Assembly Joint Subcommittee to Formulate Recommendations to Address Recurrent Flooding's request to fund the state's portion for (2) Army Corps of Engineers Regional Reconnaissance Flood Mitigation Evaluations.
2. \$5 million to support the Virginia Secretary of Commerce's request to fund the Virginia Resiliency Incubator Center that will leverage and enhance Virginia's private foundation, corporate, and federal support for comprehensive resiliency programs aimed to harness private/public sector resiliency solutions.
3. \$3 million enhancement to the Virginia Brownfields Restoration Fund that will be used by eligible Virginia local governments to leverage available federal and non-profit brownfield remediation funding.
4. Fully restore the Commonwealth's support of HB 599 Local Law Enforcement.

2016 Commonwealth Budget Priorities

The Norfolk City Council respectfully advances to the 2016 General Assembly the following budget priorities:

1. Support the business-led statewide “GOVirginia” initiative to grow and diversify the private sector in each Virginia region and enhance regional efficiencies and cost savings collaboration.
2. Local governments collectively ask the 2016 General Assembly to honor the Commonwealth’s original commitment and provide desperately needed state funding to the local law enforcement financial assistance fund called the HB 599 Fund. In the 1980’s the General Assembly established the HB 599 Fund to address state funding disparities between localities patrolled by sheriffs’ departments and the other 70% of the state’s population patrolled by police departments. Over the years, the General Assembly has continued to lower its contribution to the HB 599 Fund, which originally intended to provide ~30% of a local police department’s operating costs. In FY 16 the state will distribute \$172.4 million to cover 38 cities, nine counties, and 128 towns. In most cases, state cuts to HB 599 is a direct cut to local law enforcement.
3. Provide a meaningful increase for mental healthcare services in following priority areas: Workforce Development; Medical Detoxification; Re-integration services for high-risk youth and adults; and fund/create 800 additional “Waver slots” for FY 17 and FY 18.
4. Increase state funding to Community Service Boards providing Development, Substance, Infant Development, and Mental Healthcare services.
5. Provide a \$50 million enhancement to the Virginia Housing Trust Fund to provide state assistance to Virginia local governments attempting to provide eligible working citizens better access to affordable housing.
6. Provide a \$50 million enhancement to the statewide Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF) to continue required improvements and installation of effective stormwater management controls in urban lands as required in the Virginia Watershed Implementation Plan. The 2013 General Assembly created the SLAF to provide 50% match-share grants to qualifying stormwater pollution reduction projects as required by federal/state law. Since 2013, the Commonwealth has only provided \$60 million to SLAF, yet recently reissued federal permits show that Virginia local governments need more than a billion to comply federally.
7. Increase and sufficiently support the Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF) used to fund water quality improvements in Virginia local sewage treatment plants; prioritize Agricultural Best Management Practices so that reliable funding is available for Virginia farmers implementing the Commonwealth’s best management practices to accomplish

specific water quality improvement goals; and address federal TMDL requirements for improving the Chesapeake Bay.

8. Increase state funding support for Virginia's Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades to reduce the flow of pollution to the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia Rivers.
9. Approve the Joint Legislative Audit Review Committee (JLARC) request to conduct a one-year study to analyze programs, funding, and outcomes on programs serving Virginia's children prenatal to five.

2016 Recommended State Budgeting Principals

Norfolk Council, along with the Virginia Municipal League and member localities, embraces the following principles on local taxing and budget authority:

1. Specific local revenue authority and sources cannot be further restricted without first granting and providing alternative revenue authority with reliable, sustainable revenue sources. This includes, without limitation, the BPOL and M&T taxes.
2. Local general fund revenue and special funds cannot be confiscated or re-directed to the state treasury.
3. Local governments cannot be expected to bear the expenses related to the imposition of new funding requirements or the expansion of existing ones on services delivered at the local level without a commensurate increase of state financial assistance or new local taxing authority.
4. Shifting traditional state funding responsibilities onto local governments, for such services including public education, law enforcement and public safety activities, is bad fiscal policy, resulting in the stress of local finances without reductions in overall program costs.
5. Piggybacking state fees, taxes or surcharges on local government services frustrates transparency at both the state and local level.
6. Placing additional administrative burdens on local governments without sufficient resources or administrative flexibility jeopardizes the quality of services delivered at the local level.
7. State budget cuts to state mandated and other high priority programs should specify the programs affected by the cuts.

More specifically, the Commonwealth should consider:

1. Critique the Standards of Accreditation and Standards of Learning to determine which standards impose costs on local governments that are not recognized in state funding

formulas. In particular, changes adopted since 2009 to SOAs and SOLs should be examined as state funding on a per-pupil basis is now below 2009 levels.

2. Re-examine those Standards of Quality that the Board of Education has adopted, but that the General Assembly has not funded. These standards reflect prevailing practices necessary to improve children's academic performance. Their academic performance is crucial to students and schools meeting the accountability standards under the SOL and SOA. If funding is not available to pay for prevailing practices, the accountability standards should be adjusted so that local governments are not in the position of having to bear the entire burden of meeting these unfunded mandates.
3. Develop spending and revenue priorities that support economic development, public safety, education and other public goals. State tax credits, tax deductions and tax relief policies must receive the same scrutiny as spending programs as part of the prioritization process.
4. In times of revenue crises, review ways to increase revenues to meet constitutional and statutory obligations to Virginia citizens after all other actions have been taken including eliminating unnecessary programs, achieving greater program efficiencies, and streamlining service delivery.
5. Include local government representatives on any "blue ribbon" commission or other body established by the state that has as its purpose changes to local revenue authority or governance.

2016 Federal Priorities

The Norfolk City Council respectfully advances to the Norfolk Congressional Delegation the following 2016 federal priorities:

Flood Control/Water Infrastructure: Pursue funding and partnership to address flood control and water infrastructure priorities and support the completion of Norfolk's on-going federal flood control studies. Specific priorities include:

- City of Norfolk Comprehensive Flood Control Study.
- Willoughby Spit and Vicinity Beach Nourishment Implementation.
- Western Branch Dam Upgrades.
- Wastewater System Upgrades.

Transportation: Pursue federal transportation funding and partnership to address mobility on-going transportation priorities:

- Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Harbor Crossing Study.

- Environmental Impact Statement on the Richmond to Hampton Roads Passenger Rail Corridor Study.
- Enhanced bicycle / pedestrian trail funding.

Disaster Preparedness: Pursue federal funding and partnership to address Norfolk's disproportionate homeland security and disaster preparedness challenges such as Department of Homeland Security Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI).

Education: Pursue federal funding and partnership for closing the achievement gap and improving safety and security at Norfolk Public Schools.

Veterans / Homeless: Pursue grant funding and programmatic housing funding and partnership with on-going veteran workforce development programs and homelessness assistance.

Municipal Finance: (1) Oppose legislative efforts to remove or limit federal tax exemption of municipal bonds and other related municipal debt instruments. (2) Tax, license, and regulate internet-based businesses to encourage a level playing field for traditional storefront retailers. (3) Preserve and/or replace local and state tax revenues lost from exempted on-line transactions.

Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC): Support LIHTC funding for 4% and 9% populations.

2016 Federal Grant Priorities

- HUD National Disaster Resiliency Competition.
- Brownfield Remediation.
- Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant.
- Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency's: Pre-disaster Mitigation, Fire and Emergency Response, and Emergency Operations Center Grants.
- Dept. of Justice Community Oriented Policing Services Grants.
- Investing in Innovation (i3).
- Promise Neighborhoods.

Norfolk City Council



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Norfolk General Assembly Delegation

 <p>Senator Kenneth C. Alexander (D), Senate District 5 120 West Berkeley Ave Norfolk, VA 23218 District05@senate.virginia.gov 757-223-1333 (District) 804-698-7505 (Richmond)</p> <p>Committees: Senate Transportation, Senate Commerce and Labor, Senate Finance, and Senate Privileges and Elections</p> <p>Represents Chesapeake and Norfolk</p>	 <p>Senator Lynwood Lewis, Jr. (D) Senate District 6 P.O. Box 396 Richmond, VA 23218 District06@senate.virginia.gov 804-698-7506 (Richmond)</p> <p>Committees: Senate Agriculture, Conversation and Natural Resources, Senate Education and Health, and Senate Local Government</p> <p>Represents Accomack County, Mathews County, Northampton County, Norfolk, and Virginia Beach</p>	 <p>Senator Frank Wagner (R) Senate District 7 P.O. Box 68008 Virginia Beach, VA 23471 District07@senate.virginia.gov 757-671-2250 (District) 804-698-7507 (Richmond)</p> <p>Committees: Senate Transportation, Senate Commerce and Labor, Senate Finance, Senate Rehabilitation and Social Services, and Senate Rules</p> <p>Represents Virginia Beach and Norfolk</p>
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Norfolk General Assembly Delegation (cont.)

 <p>Delegate Robert Bloxom, Jr. (R) House District 100 P.O. Box 27 Mappsville, VA 23407 delrbloxom@house.virginia.gov 804-698-1000 (Richmond)</p> <p>Committees: House Agriculture, Chesapeake, and Natural Resources, House Finance, and House Science and Technology</p> <p>Represents Accomack County, Northampton County, Norfolk, and Virginia Beach</p>	 <p>Delegate Daun S. Hester (D) House District 89 1751 Church Street Norfolk, VA 23218 deldhester@house.virginia.gov 757-613-33-18 (District) 804-698-1089 (Richmond)</p> <p>Committees: House Appropriations, House Education, and House General Laws</p> <p>Represents Norfolk (all)</p>	 <p>Delegate Joseph C. Lindsey (D) House District 90 500 E. Plume Street Norfolk, VA 23510 deljlindsey@house.virginia.gov 757-623-6522 (District) 804-698-1090 (Richmond)</p> <p>Committees: House Courts of Justice, House Education, and House Privileges and Elections</p> <p>Represents Norfolk and Virginia Beach</p>
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Norfolk General Assembly Delegation (cont.)

 <p> Delegate Matthew James (D) House District 80 P.O. Box 7487 Portsmouth, VA 23707 delmjames@house.virginia.gov 757-967-7583 (District) 804-698-1080 (Richmond) </p> <p> Committees: House Agriculture, Chesapeake, and Natural Resources, House Appropriations, House Health, Welfare, and Institutions </p> <p> Represents Chesapeake, Norfolk, and Portsmouth </p>	 <p> Delegate Stephen Heretick (D) House District 79 715 Loudoun Avenue Portsmouth, VA 23707 delsheretick@house.virginia.gov 757-397-9923 (District) 804-698-1079 (Richmond) </p> <p> Committees: Not yet assigned. </p> <p> Represents Norfolk and Portsmouth </p>	 <p> Delegate Chris Stolle, MD (R) House District 83 P.O. Box 5429 Virginia Beach, VA 23471 delcstolle@house.virginia.gov 757-633-2080 (District) 804-698-1083 (Richmond) </p> <p> Committees: House Appropriations, House Counties, Cities, and Towns, and House Health, Welfare, and Institutions </p> <p> Represents Norfolk and Virginia Beach </p>
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Norfolk's Congressman



Congressman Bobby Scott (D)
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Virginia Senators



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